

Hammond



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

September 21, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF MRSA

On September 7, 2004, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board requested the Sheriff to work with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to report back in two weeks with a funding source and a detailed description of the specific role and pre-determined goals for a Physician Specialist Epidemiology, three Public Health Nurses and an Operations Assistant needed to control the spread of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) in County jails. Outlined below are our recommendations for the Sheriff to fund these positions. The Sheriff will provide the Board with specific goals and objectives for each position under separate cover.

After consideration of various financing alternatives, we were unable to reach a consensus with the Sheriff's Department on a viable funding source to offset the additional \$619,000 cost necessary to control the spread of MRSA. However, we believe the Sheriff can absorb these costs within his 2004-05 adopted operating budget using anticipated savings in workers' compensation costs.

In fiscal year 2003-04, primarily due to reforms enacted in 2003, as well as countywide efforts such as the early-return-to-work program, the Sheriff's Department realized a \$7.2 million (6.49 percent) savings in budgeted worker's compensation costs. Although this office anticipated savings in this area, due to the budget uncertainties at that time, the savings were not included in our 2004-05 workers' compensation budget projections. However, based upon the actual prior year savings and the impact the 2004 reforms are already having on workers' compensation regulations, we anticipate that the Sheriff's Department will save at a minimum \$7.1 million (5.5 percent) in budgeted workers' compensation costs in 2004-05.

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The 2004-05 Supplemental Budget Resolution package, scheduled for next week's agenda, includes the Sheriff's request to shift \$6.0 million of this savings from his workers' compensation budget to services and supplies as restoration for reductions taken in the Proposed Budget. As a result, we believe the remaining \$1.1 million in budgeted workers' compensation savings can be redirected by the Sheriff to fund the five medical services professionals and miscellaneous services and supplies needed to control the spread of MRSA in County jails. We have included this recommendation in the Chief Administrative Office's Supplemental budget recommendations scheduled for September 28, 2004.

Please let me know if you have any questions or you may contact Debbie Lizzari of my staff at (213) 974-6872.

DEJ:SRH:DL
RG:BAM:ljp

c: Sheriff Leroy D. Baca
Executive Officer, Clerk of the Board

funding.bm